

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend page 8, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

- - ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE - -

[ABSTRACT]

_____An apparatus for [the] continuous cold sterilization of a fluid [(4)] which compris[ing]es at least one ultraviolet radiation source [(2)] and at least one duct [(3)], through which the fluid flows, permeable to such radiation [in which the fluid flows]. The duct has a [portion with] helically shaped portion [(3a)] around the ultraviolet radiation source [(2) which is] arranged in a chamber [(1a) with] having walls [having] with reflective surfaces. The distance between the walls and the helical portion is sufficient to allow [an] adequate circulation of air between them, whereby [an] excessive heating of the fluid is avoided. [Moreover] In addition, at least the helical portion of the duct has an elliptically-shaped passage section [(5)] with its major axis generally perpendicular to the [irradiation] direction of irradiation so as to reduce the thickness of [the] fluid exposed to radiation and [thus], thereby, increase [the] treatment efficiency.

[(FIG. 1)]